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use. The very conciseness which might make it useful and attractive to the lawyer who understands how difficult it is to state the law in the form of rigid rules, often proves repellent and misleading to the student.

FLOYD R. MECHEM

ABBOTT'S BRIEF FOR THE TRIAL OF CRIMINAL CAUSES. Second Edition. Lawyer's Co-operative Publishing Co., Rochester, N. Y. 1902. Pp. xx, 815, 8vo.

The first edition of this work was published in 1889, with Austin Abbott as its author, assisted by William C. Beecher. This new edition is a substantial improvement over the first, which in its day was an excellent handbook, and well received by the profession.

An examination of this second edition has led us to conclude that it is certainly one of the most helpful books for the trial lawyer to be found among the already numerous practice books available to him. This edition has been prepared by the editorial staff of its publishers and brings the book down to date, adding new cases and many new propositions, particularly such as have been made prominent through the discussion of courts in the years since the publication of the first edition. This new matter has enlarged the book till it now contains substantially twice as much as the former edition.

The plan of the book is to take up the questions in the order in which they would occur in the ordinary progress of the trial, beginning with questions growing out of the constitutional right of the accused to counsel, and taking up in natural order, questions pertaining to the finding of the indictment, the arraignment, the demurral or plea, bills of particulars, continuances, separate trials, selection of trial jury, supervision of jury, the opening statement, compelling election by the prosecutor, presence and competency of witness, order of proof, rules of evidence applicable to various classes of evidence and to the examination of witnesses in its production, the taking of the case from the jury, the argument of counsel, the instruction of the jury, the verdict and the judgment. This outline gives no adequate idea of the fund of practical legal knowledge, here to be found for the trial lawyer. Many matters of great practical value found here are not brought to mind with the above outline; such as the presence of the accused, manacling, motions to quash, change of venue, experiments before the jury, inspection of the accused, decoys, detectives and spies, use of documents by the jury, and the like.

While the citations are not exhaustive, they seem fairly illustrative, and reasonably accurate. It is too much to expect that it would completely satisfy every person having occasion to use it. No author can possibly foresee the various points of view from which his readers will come to consider the merits of his book. Some will feel disappointed in not finding here some particular matter he thinks within the scope of the book. We confess to a little disappointment in not finding, in view of the now wide prevalence of that method of procedure, treatment of that class of questions which grow out of, and are peculiar to, the prosecution upon complaint and information as distinguished from presentation upon indictment. But on the whole the book compels the statement that in its own peculiar field, there is nothing more practically helpful for the criminal lawyer.

VICTOR H. LANE